

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 375
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lynda Pinkston, 1998
Tennessee Teacher of the Year finalist.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay
tribute to those exemplary teachers who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this
state's most precious natural resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lynda Pinkston is one such exemplary person, a voice of integrity in the
education profession; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston was nominated by her principal and the Bedford County
superintendent for the distinguished 1998 Tennessee Teacher of the Year award, an honor
most befitting her meritorious service to education and her devotion to the children she teaches;
and

WHEREAS, with twenty-eight years of exemplary teaching experience, Lynda Pinkston
is a highly regarded fourth grade teacher in the Bedford County school system, teaching
students at the Community School in Unionville; and

WHEREAS, Mike Landis, principal of the Community School describes Lynda Pinkston
as the best teacher he has seen in his many years as an administrator; he attributes Ms.
Pinkston's success to her "enthusiasm, desire, countless hours of preparation, attention to
sound teaching principles, and a teaching talent that is duplicated by few educators"; and

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WHEREAS, as a young student in the Rutherford County School System, Ms. Pinkston knew she wanted to make a career in education; she pursued an education degree at Middle Tennessee State University, obtaining both her bachelor's and master's in education at that school; and

WHEREAS, Lynda Pinkston continued her post-graduate education, accruing more than 45 hours of additional coursework at Tennessee State University in Nashville; as the culmination of her education and experience, Ms. Pinkston reached Career Level III in 1987, a level reached by only a few others in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston's efforts in education have been lauded by many; her instructional skills are truly superb, as is her understanding and compassion for children; she has demonstrated the highest level of professional commitment and competence in her work with students, colleagues and education officials in Bedford and Rutherford counties and throughout our great state; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston's professional affiliations are numerous as she has given unselfishly of her time and talents to several local committees and boards in addition to many state and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston is an active member of the local, state and national education associations; serves on the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; and is the current president of Delta Kappa Gamma, of which she has also served as parliamentarian, secretary, and first vice-president; Ms. Pinkston has also presided over the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) study for her school and has been a member of the SACS steering committee and visiting committees in multiple years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston has had the opportunity to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with other education professionals across the state; she has designed and conducted in-service programs and workshops for her distinguished colleagues in the areas of math, reading and science; and

WHEREAS, believing that we “teach by example,” Ms. Pinkston is a tremendous advocate of community education; she believes that it takes the combined efforts of the school, the home and a caring public to advance a child educationally; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston has always believed that the teacher serves as the center of such community education efforts; she believes it is her responsibility as an educator to help a student to find a sense of purpose in the classroom, empower them, and facilitate learning to match their abilities and needs; Ms. Pinkston also believes in teaching students to take pride in their accomplishments, thereby enabling them to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, ever a promoter of strong home-school ties, Ms. Pinkston has been an active member of the PTA-PTO for twenty-seven years; through her exemplary efforts with the PTA-PTO, she has provided tutoring in math, initiated Family Math classes for local students and parents, and developed a computer enrichment class for children in after-school care; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Ms. Pinkston was elected to the Rutherford County School Board, an office which allows her to broaden her contribution to education within her beloved community; as a school board member, she gives unreservedly of her time and talents to the budget, policy and personnel committees; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston’s outstanding efforts have been recognized by the community and many others in the profession; she was the recipient of the prestigious Community School Teacher of the Year award in both 1987 and 1990, received the WLIJ Teacher of the Week award in 1996, and was honored by Community School alumni twice for her distinguished years of service to the school; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkston truly believes that “joy comes from serving others”; this exemplary citizen notes that she has gained tremendous pleasure in her years from serving her church community, school community and civic community; and

WHEREAS, an active and devoted member of her church, Ms. Pinkston has served the congregation as a youth leader, Sunday school teacher, and hostess for church activities; the

very epitome of a compassionate member and church leader, she has also provided transportation for the elderly to and from services; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, Lynda Pinkston has given unreservedly of herself to the public school system in our great state to ensure quality education for our children; she is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest ideals of quality education and public service, and is most deserving of the commendation of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Lynda Pinkston upon becoming a finalist for the distinguished 1998 Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award, commend her upon twenty-eight years of meritorious service to education in our state, salute her expertise and dedication, and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.